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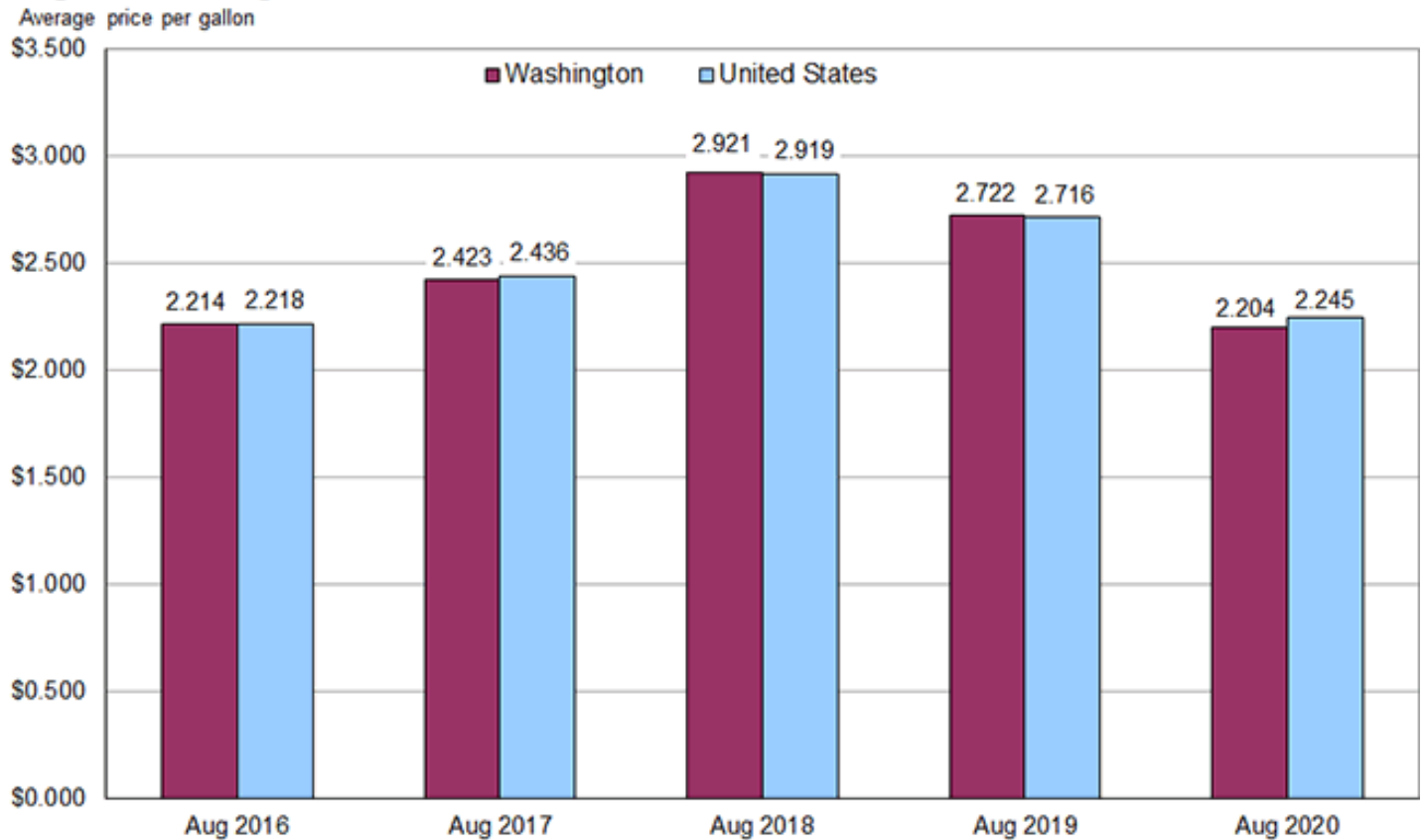
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## **Average Energy Prices, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria – August 2020**

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.204 per gallon in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria area in August 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that area gasoline prices were 19.0 percent lower than those from last August when they averaged \$2.722 per gallon. Washington area households paid an average of 13.3 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in August 2020, close to the average of 13.1 cents in August 2019. The average price of utility (piped) gas at \$1.130 per therm in August 2020 was down 15.5 percent from \$1.337 per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.204 per gallon, Washington area consumers paid 1.8 percent less than the national average of \$2.245 for a gallon of gasoline in August 2020. Last August, gasoline prices in Washington were close to the national average. From 2016 to 2018, prices for a gallon of gasoline in Washington differed little from the U.S. average in August. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria and United States, August 2016–August 2020**

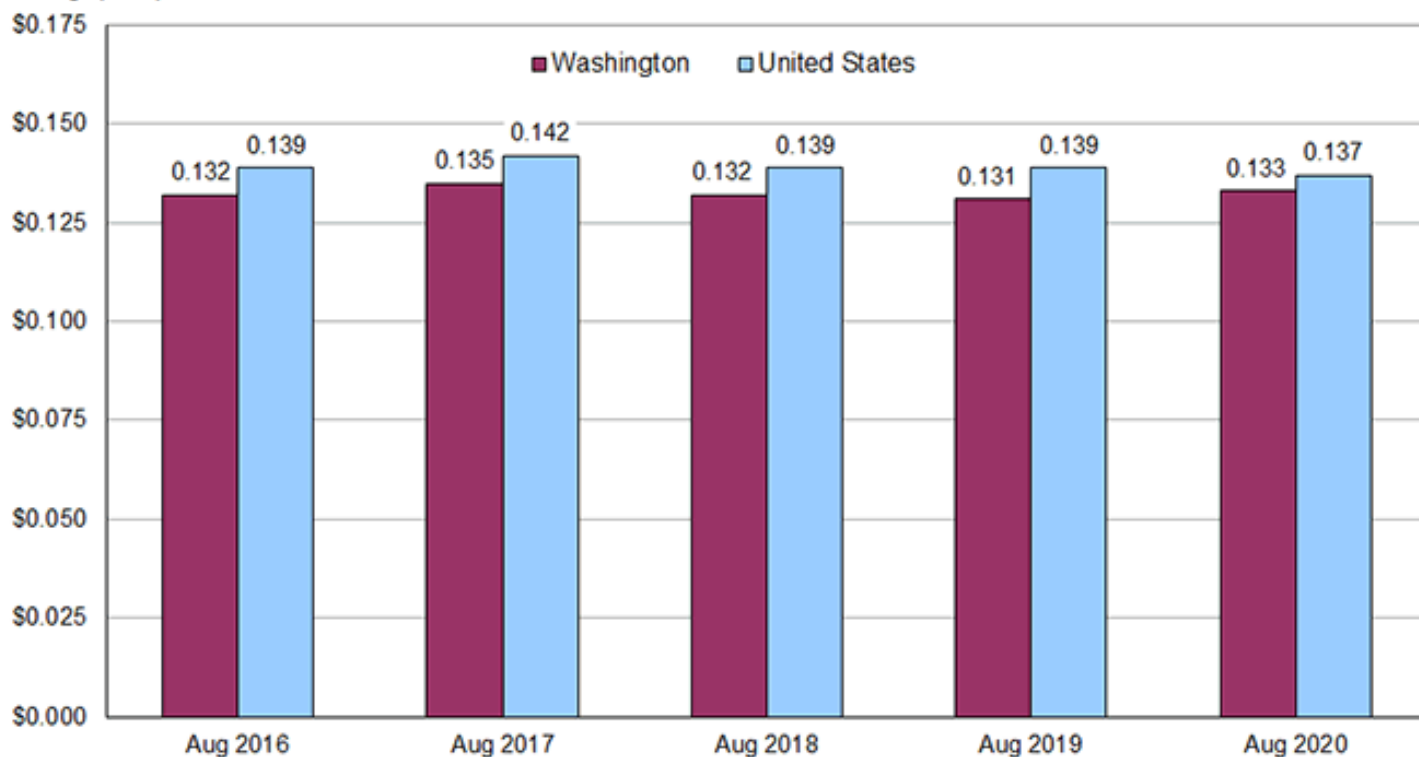


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 13.3 cents per kWh that Washington households paid for electricity in August 2020 was 2.9 percent below the nationwide average of 13.7 cents. Last August, the price per kWh for electricity in Washington was 5.8 percent below the national average. From 2016 to 2018, electricity prices for the Washington area remained at least 4.9 percent below those for the nation in August. (See [chart 2.](#))

**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria and United States, August 2016–August 2020**

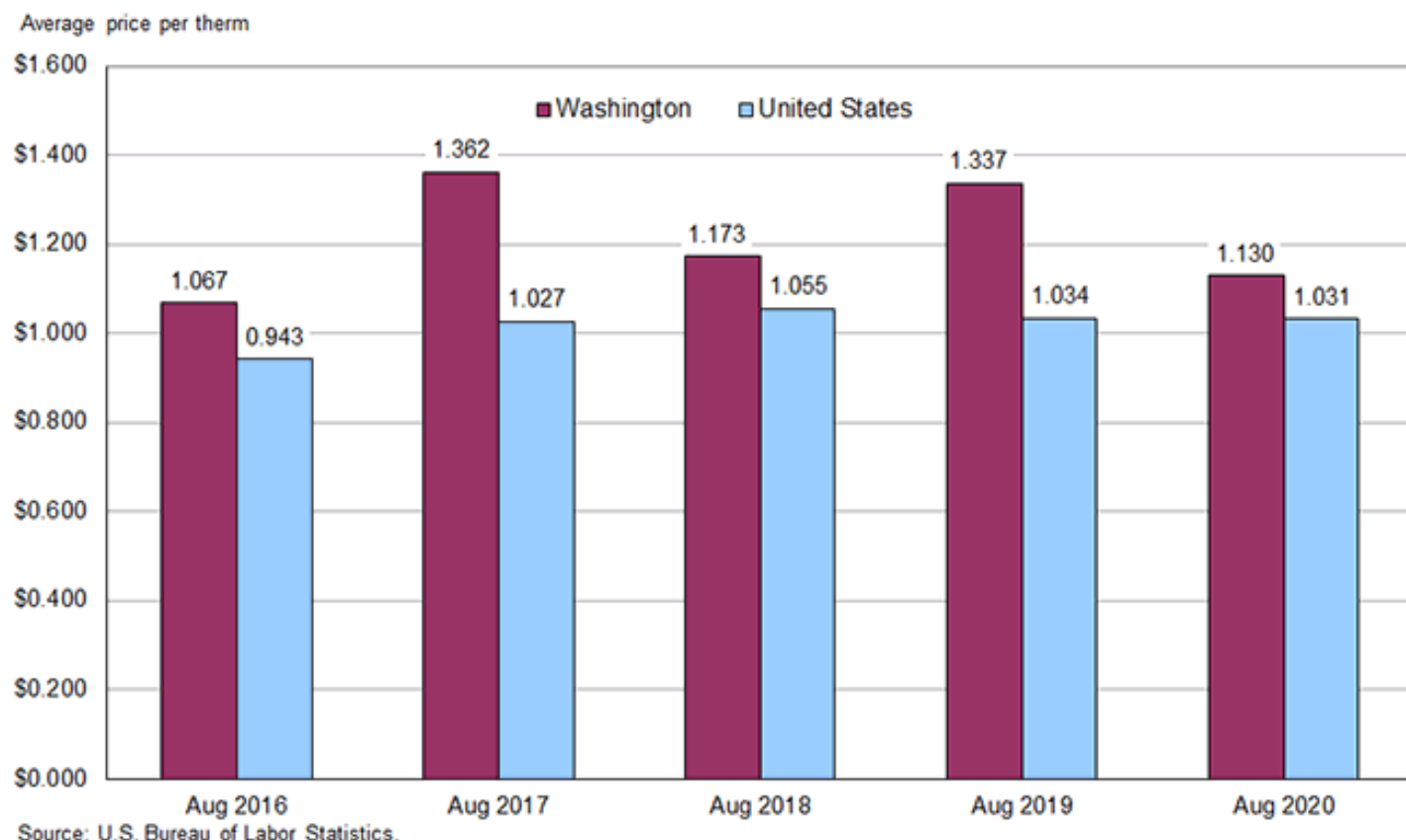
Average price per kilowatt-hour



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The price paid by Washington area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, was \$1.130 per therm in August 2020, 9.6 percent above the national average of \$1.031 per therm. Last August, the price for utility (piped) gas in Washington was 29.3 percent higher than the national average. From 2016 to 2018, the price for utility (piped) gas in the Washington area ranged from 11.2 to 32.6 percent higher than the national average in August. (See [chart 3](#).)

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria and United States, August 2016–August 2020**



**The Consumer Price Index for September 2020 is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

The **Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MA-WV, Core Based Statistical Area** includes the District of Columbia; the counties of Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's in Maryland; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren in Virginia; and the county of Jefferson in West Virginia.

**Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, United States and the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria area, June 2019-June 2020, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and Month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	United States	Washington	United States	Washington	United States	Washington
<b>2019</b>						
August .....	\$2.716	\$2.722	\$0.139	\$0.131	\$1.034	\$1.337
September .....	2.694	2.605	0.139	0.134	1.019	1.126
October .....	2.741	2.637	0.136	0.132	1.041	1.184
November .....	2.687	2.610	0.133	0.129	1.058	1.195
December .....	2.652	2.610	0.133	0.127	1.057	1.240
<b>2020</b>						
January .....	2.631	2.652	0.134	0.128	1.066	1.246
February .....	2.530	2.516	0.134	0.128	1.050	1.180
March .....	2.334	2.437	0.134	0.129	1.034	1.156
April .....	1.946	2.121	0.133	0.129	1.028	1.215
May .....	1.946	2.064	0.134	0.125	1.037	1.255
June .....	2.141	2.090	0.137	0.131	1.037	1.309
July .....	2.243	2.186	0.137	0.134	1.027	1.333
August .....	2.245	2.204	0.137	0.133	1.031	1.130